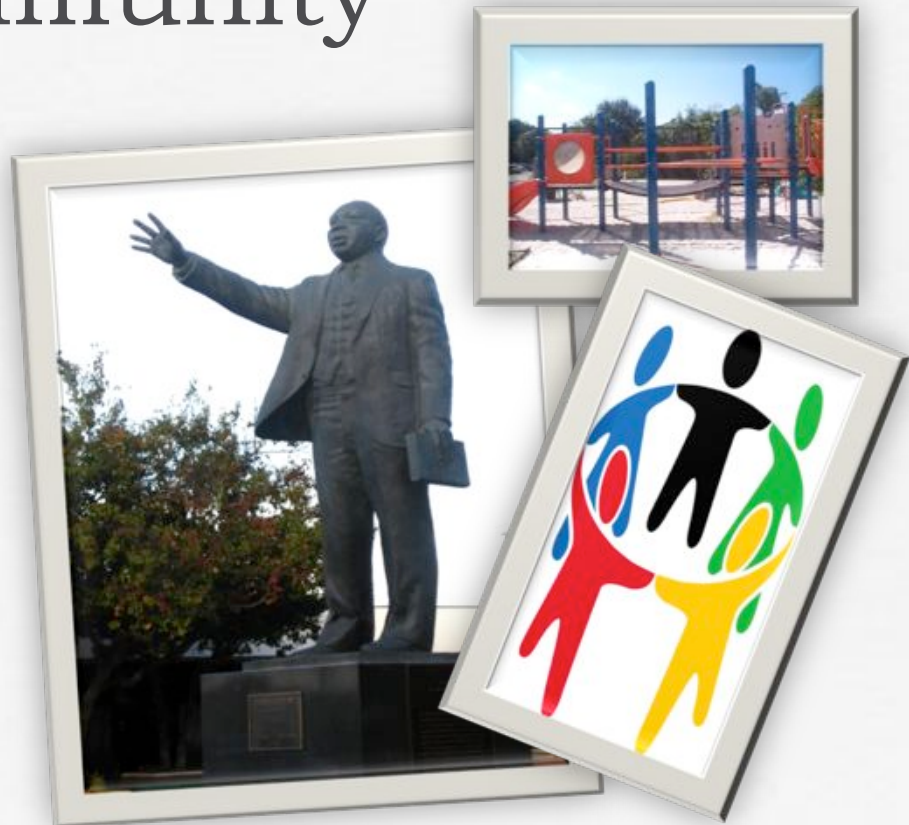


# **I Have A Dream:**

## The Road to a Safer MLK Community

Kelli Artinian  
Anahita Behmardian  
Clarissa Caballero  
Mel Capitly  
Serina Kawazoe  
April Kubachka  
Gabe Papp  
Kimberly Rogers  
Katie Whittington  
Matt Woldetsadik  
Alyssa Yang

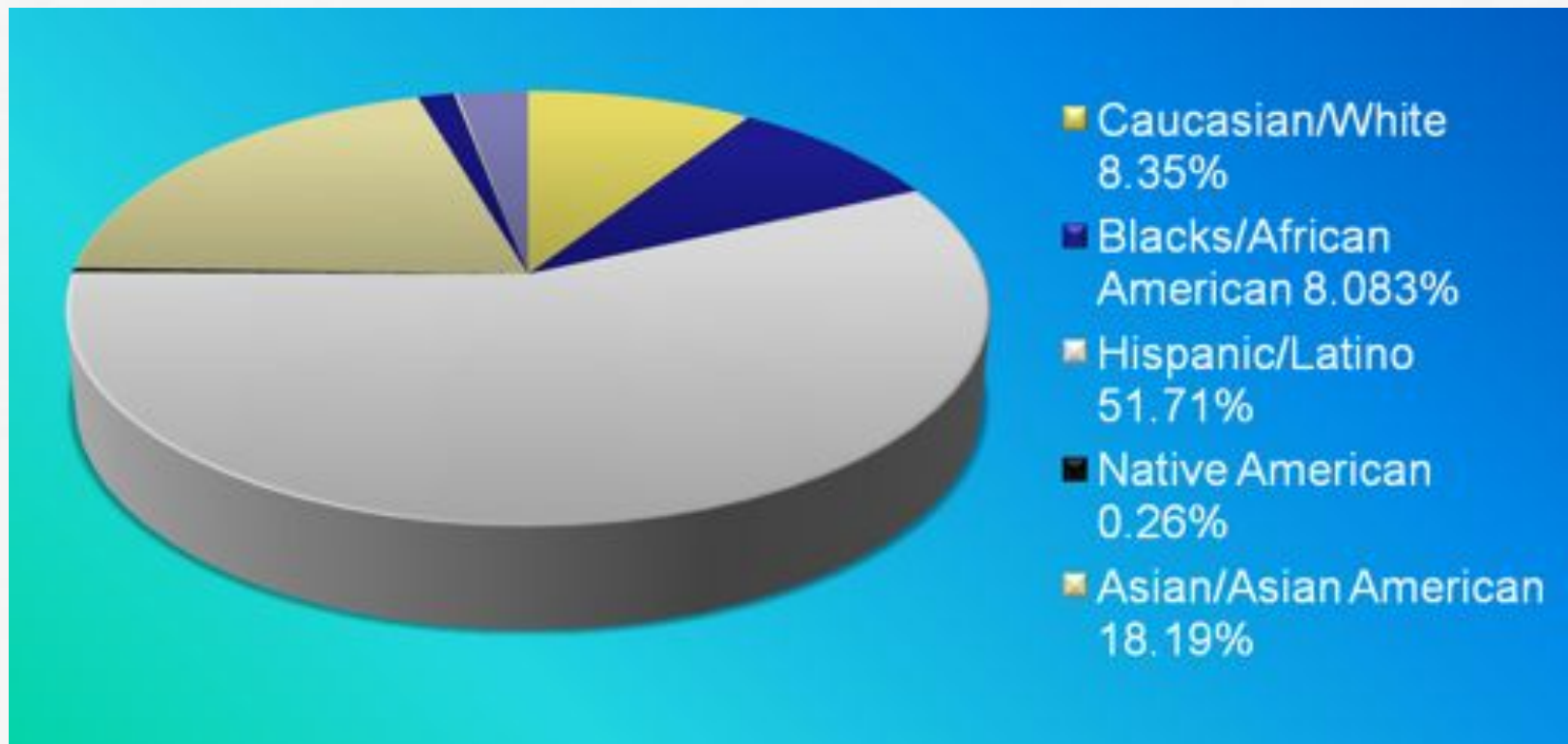


# Introduction: MLK Community Demographics

- Total Population  
= 46,461
- Median household income  
= \$34,331

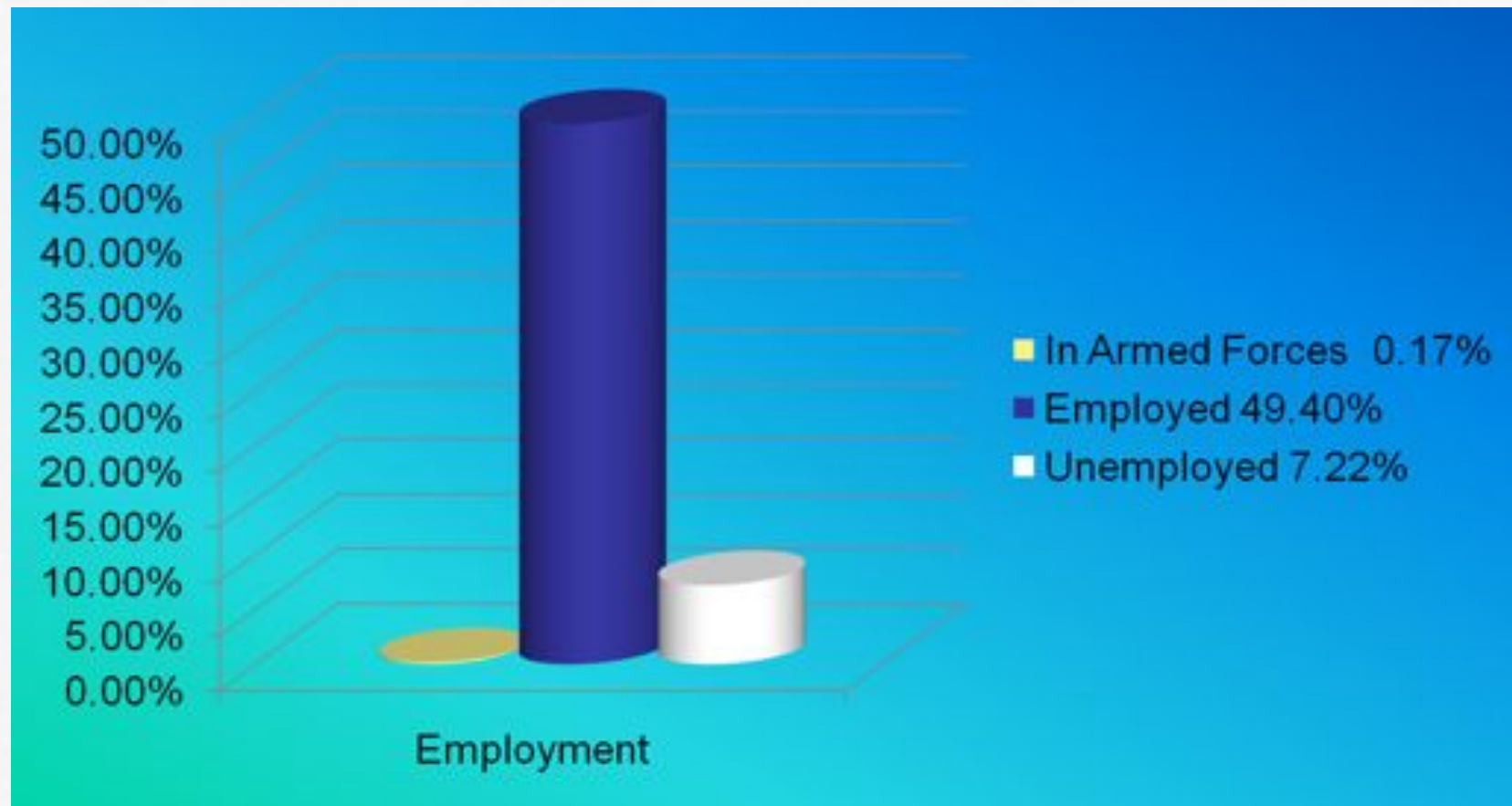
(Healthy City, n.d.)

# Race/Ethnicity



(Healthy City, n.d.)

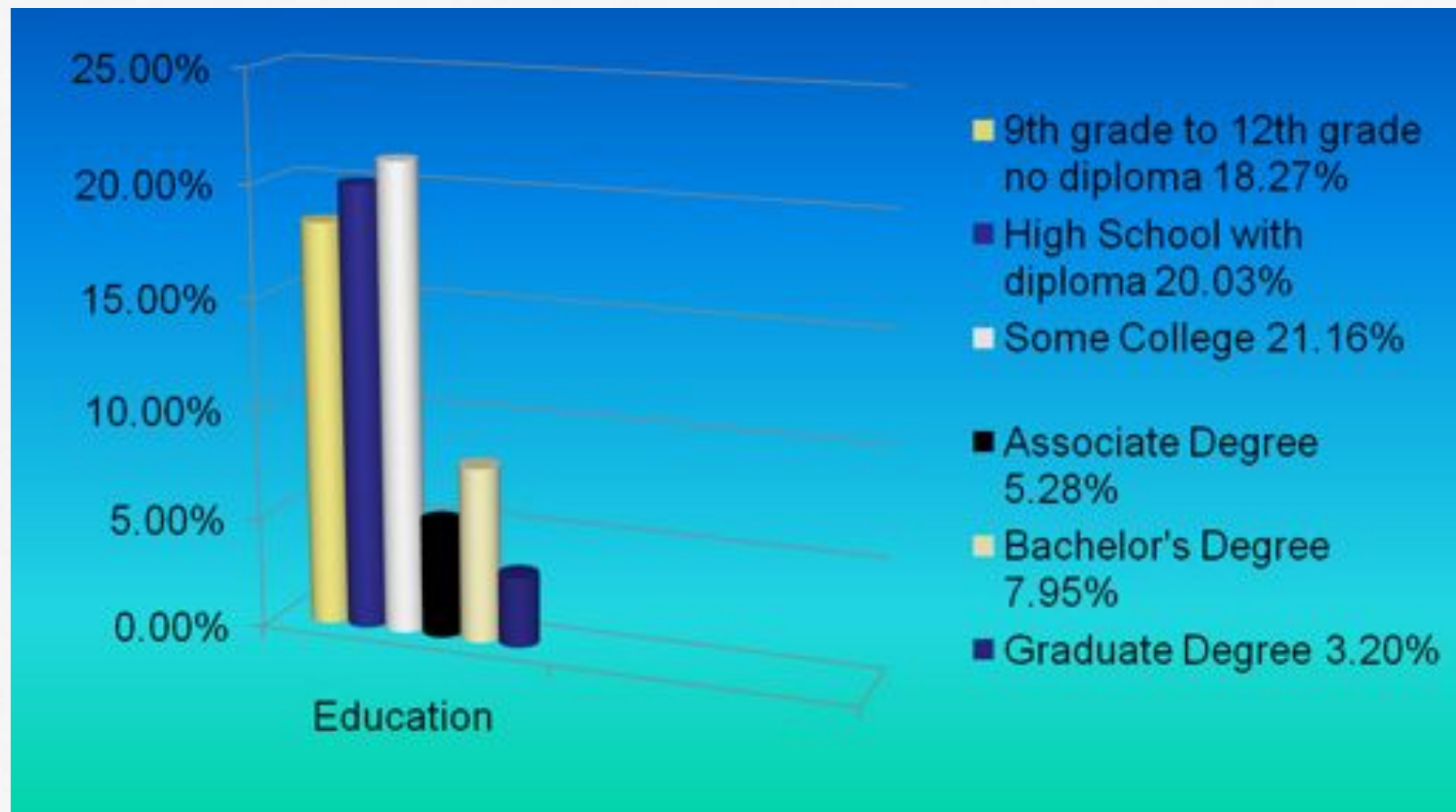
# Employment



(Healthy City, n.d.)



# Education



(Healthy City, n.d.)

# Community Survey



- **Why survey this community?**
  - To assess the needs of the community surrounding MLK park
- **Who conducted the survey?**
  - Nursing students from California State University, Long Beach in collaboration with the Weed & Seed Program
- **What is the process of the survey?**
  - Door-to-door surveys in the target community

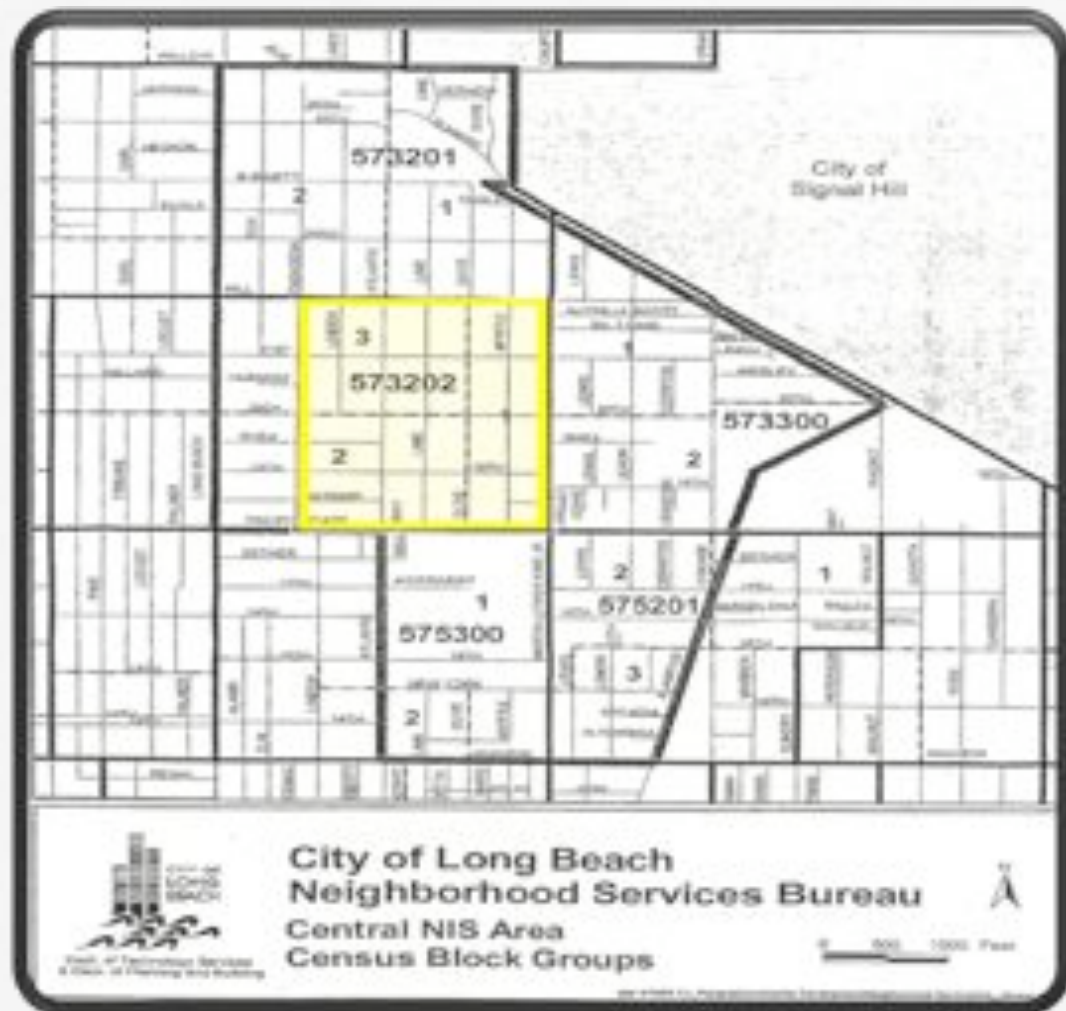
# What is Weed and Seed?

- **Community-based, multi-agency program funded by the U.S. Dept. of Justice & Long Beach Dept. of Health & Human Services to implement:**
  - ❑ Law enforcement
  - ❑ Crime prevention/intervention/treatment
  - ❑ Community policing
  - ❑ Neighborhood restoration
- **Target areas in Long Beach:**
  - ❑ Police Beats 4 & 5
  - ❑ Los Angeles River to the west; Hill Street to the north; Cherry Avenue to the east; and Anaheim Street to the south.

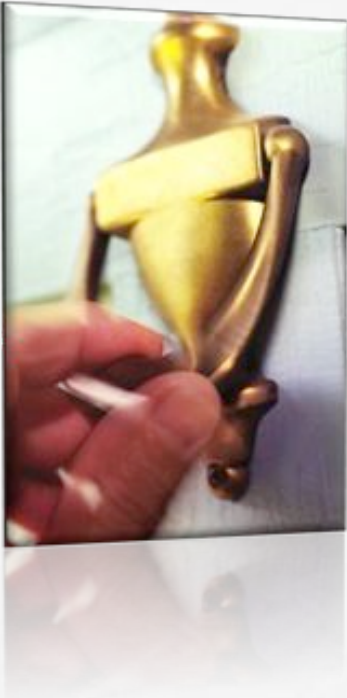


(City of Long Beach, n.d.)

# Survey Area





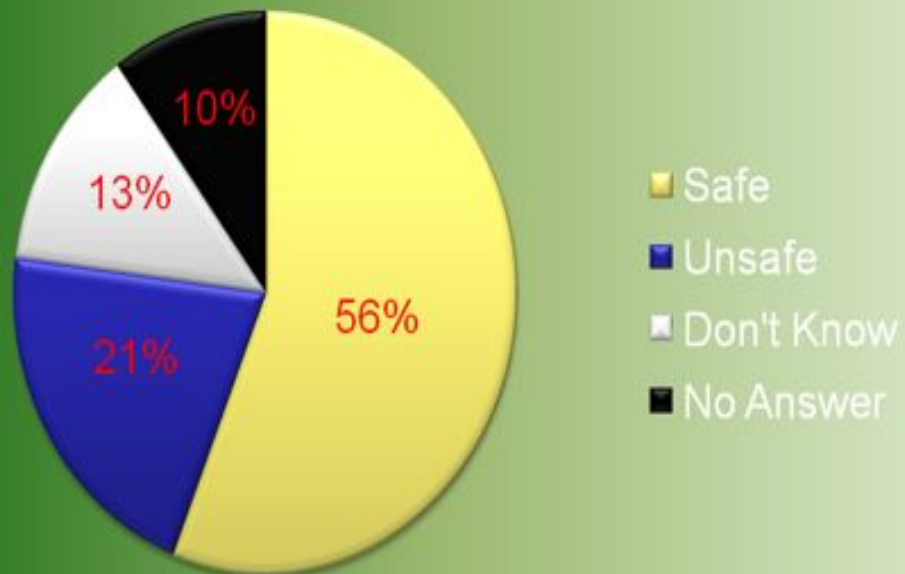


# Survey Process

- Collaborating with Weed & Seed youth volunteers to conduct door-to-door surveys
- Number of people surveyed: 88
- Number of questions: 25

# Safety

Neighborhoods Rated Today



**21% feel  
that it is  
not safe**

# Crime

**39% of those surveyed believe that it has increased or remained the same in the last year**



# Gang Activity

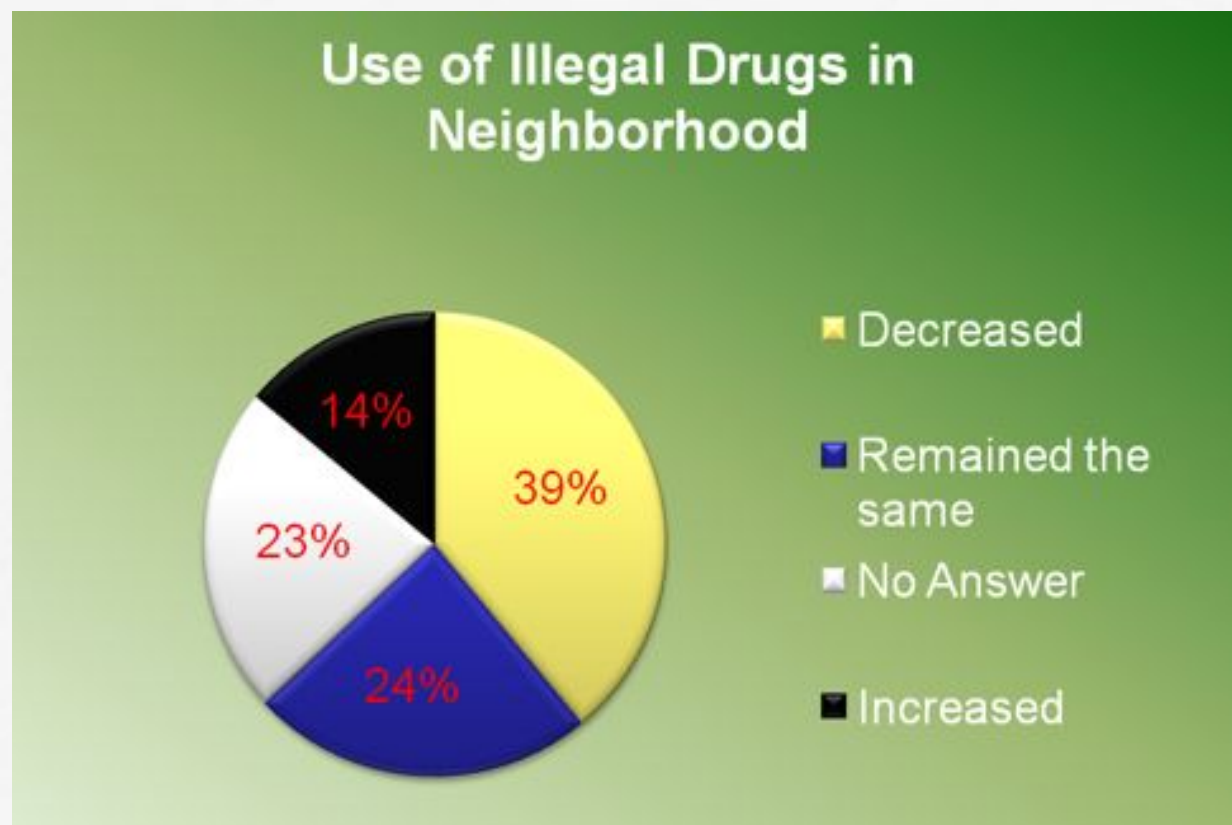


**34% of those surveyed believe that it has increased or remained the same in the last year**

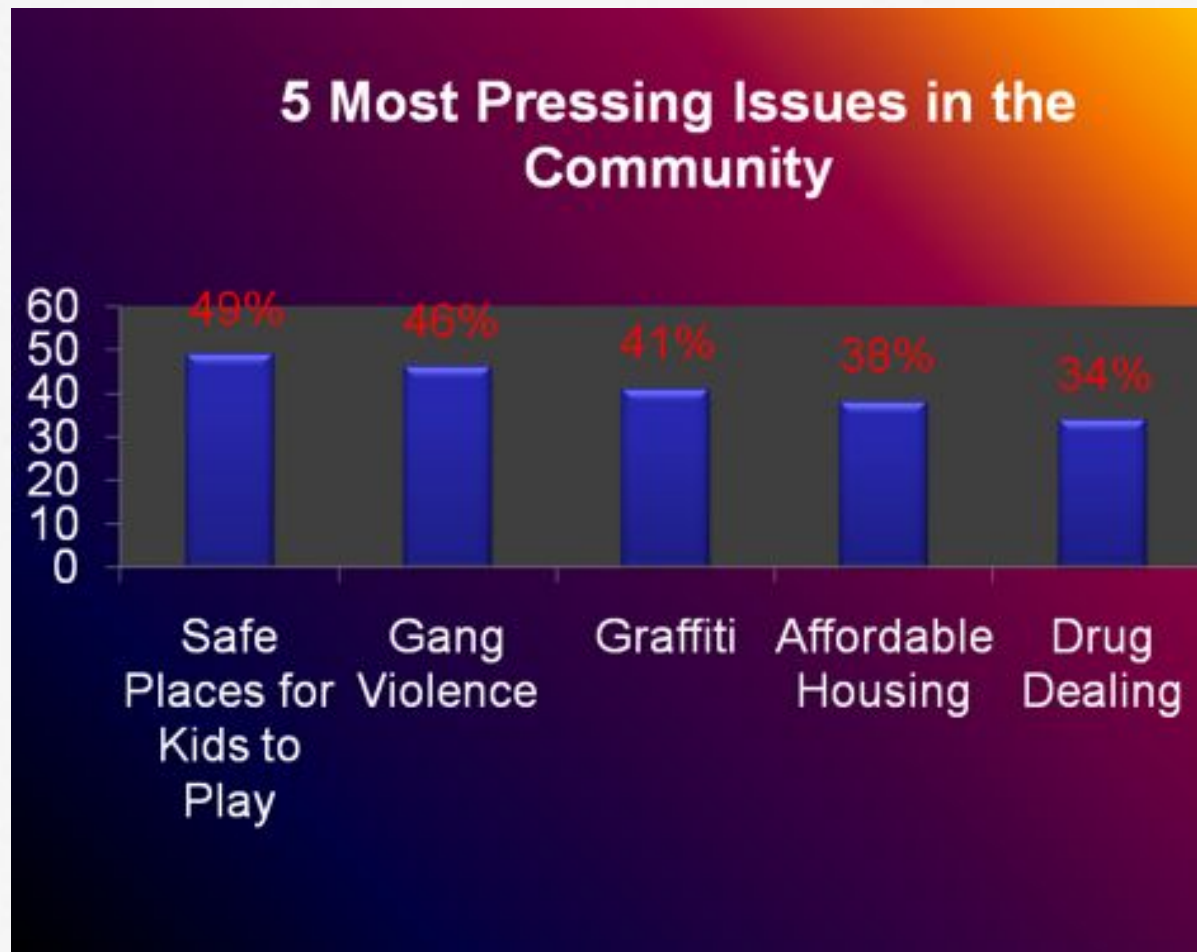


# Illegal Drug Use

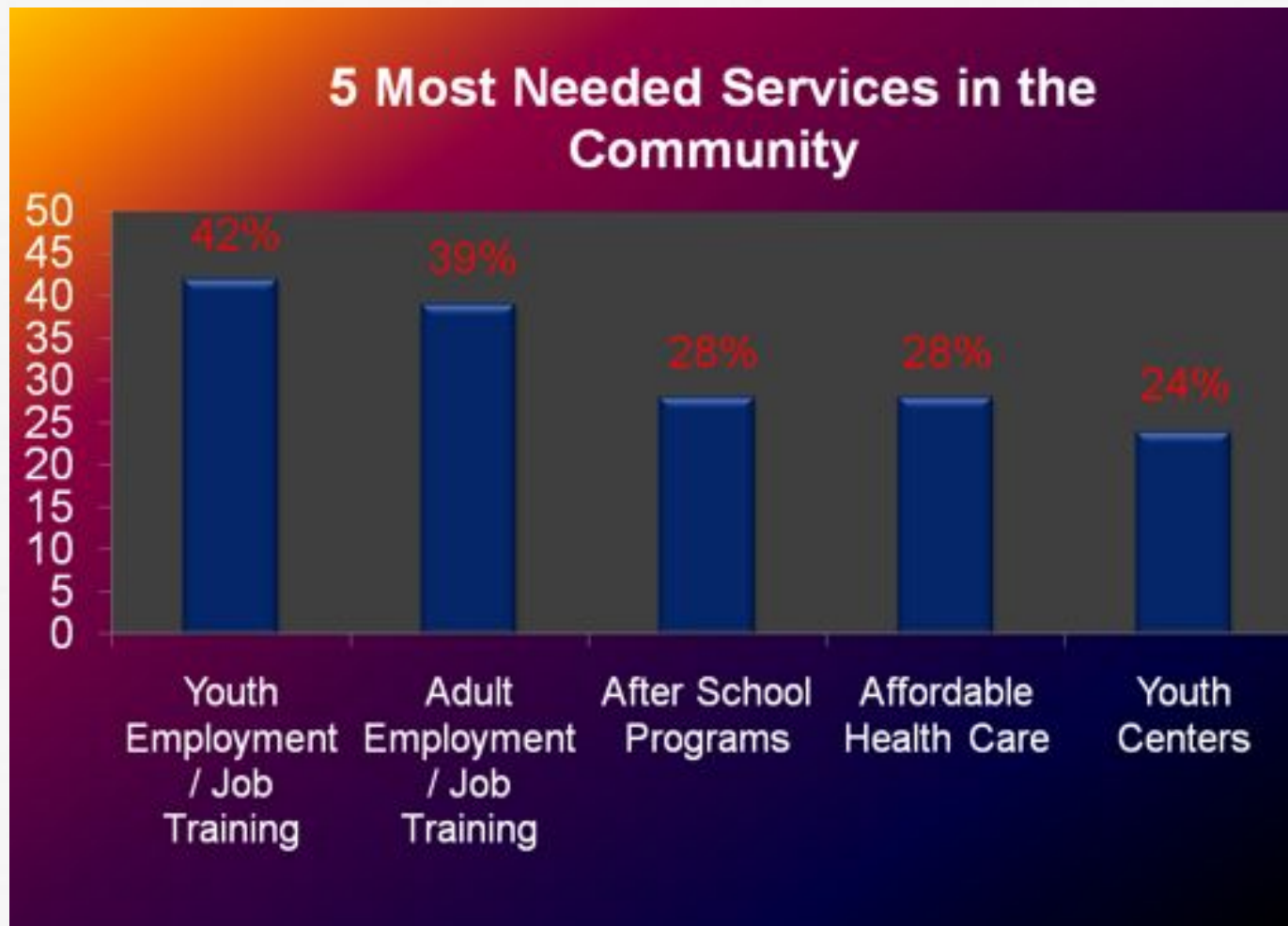
**38%  
believed  
it has  
increased  
or  
remained  
the same  
in the  
last year**



# Most Pressing Issues

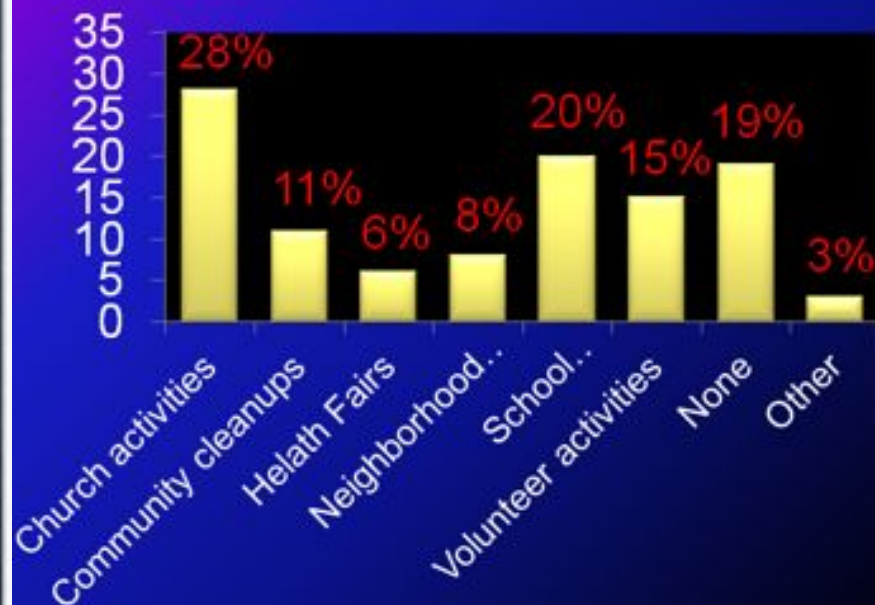


# Most Needed Services

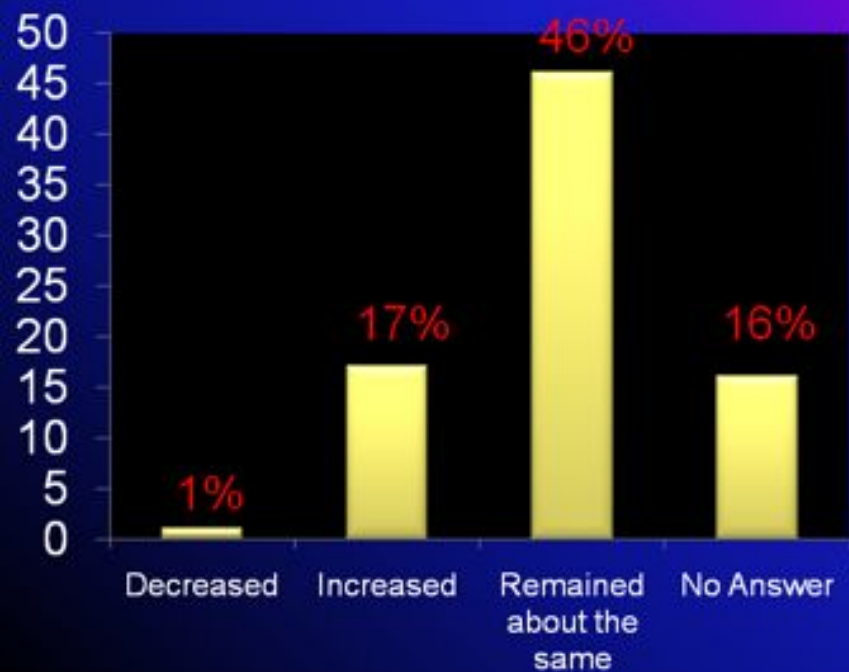


# Community Involvement

**Level of Community Involvement  
in Last Year**



**Change in Level of Community  
Involvement in Last Year**





# Diagnosis

**Risk for violence related to gang activity as evidenced by almost half of community members surveyed report gang violence and children's safety as pressing issues.**



# Outcome Objectives

- **Weed and Seed will assist in decreasing gang activity in the MLK community by implementing an employment program for those at risk for joining gangs, those wanting to leave gangs, and former gang members.**
- **Weed and Seed will promote children's safety by implementing a program in which community residents oversee children going to and returning from local school or parks.**

A spiral-bound notebook with a black cover and silver spiral binding. The notebook is open to a page with a light blue background. A magnifying glass with a black handle and frame is positioned over the page, focusing on the text. The background of the page shows a faint, blurred image of a document with the words "STUFF" and "JOBS WHEELS" visible. The word "Plan" is written in a large, black, serif font in the upper center of the page.

# Plan

**“Without a steady job and continued counseling, most ex-cons end up back [where they started]”**

**(Kingsbury, 2008)**

# Plan

- ❑ **In order to increase MLK Community Members' feeling of safety, our plan will incorporate the following interventions:**
- ❑ **Advocacy, collaboration, community organizing, outreach, and social marketing (Nies & McEwen, 2007).**



# Plan

Decreasing gang activity while increasing employment by using Homeboy Industries as a model program for job training and placement assistance for former gang members.



# Plan

## What is Homeboy Industries?

- ❑ A successful 20-year old gang intervention program based in Los Angeles that has become a national model.
- ❑ “Jobs not Jails: Homeboy Industries assists at-risk and formerly gang-involved youth to become positive and contributing members of society through job placement, training and education” (Homeboy Industries, 2008).
- ❑ Homeboy Industries starts up small businesses and also offers personal improvement opportunities.



# Plan

**Increasing children's safety by using USC's Kid Watch as a model program for children traveling on foot between home and school or parks.**



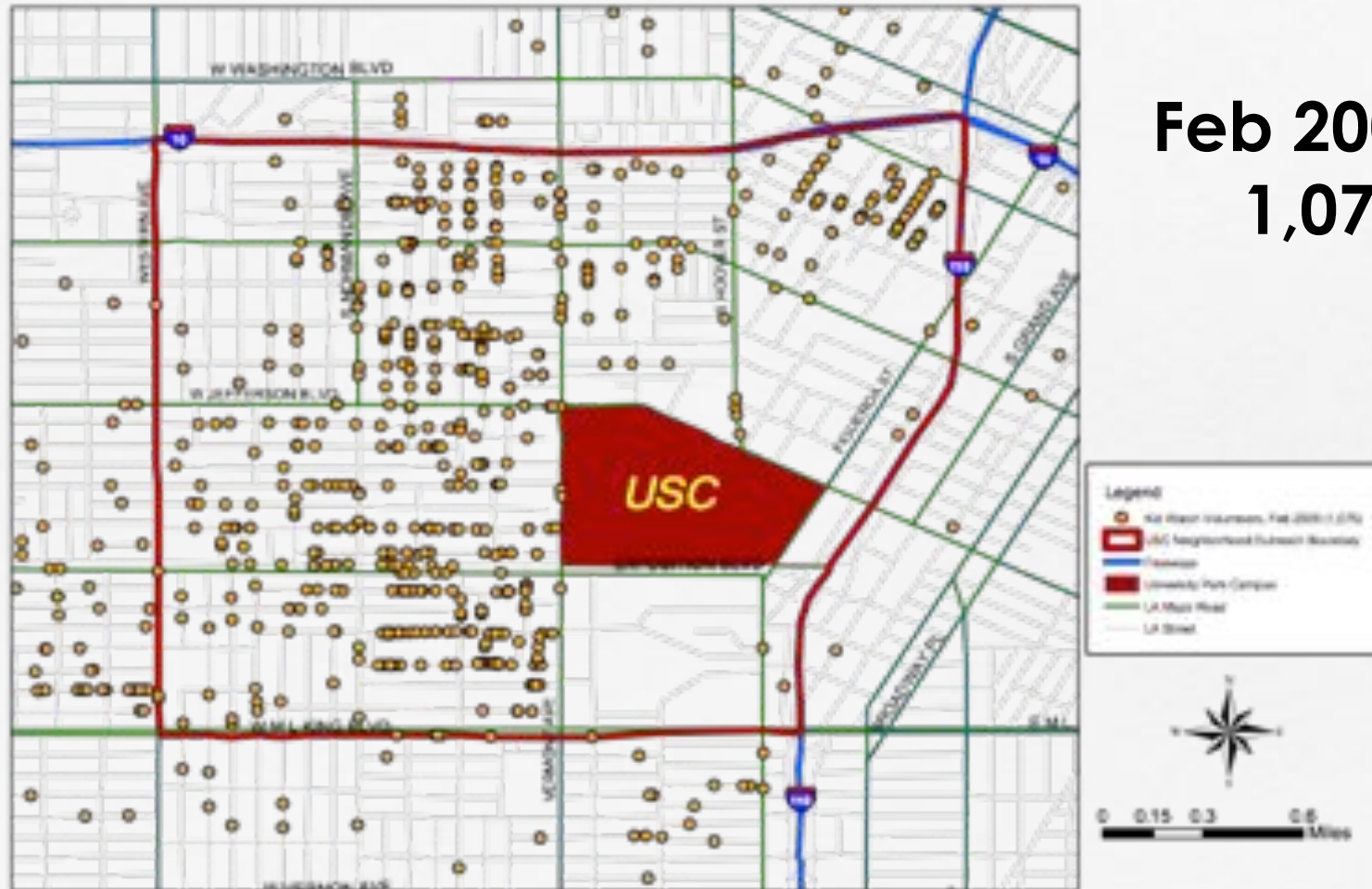
# Plan

## **What is Kid Watch?**

- A successful safety program to benefit children based in Los Angeles that has become a national model**
- The program recruits volunteers to provide safe passage for children as they walk to and from school**
- 93% of research participants indicated that they felt safer knowing that Kidwatch was in the neighborhood (Salcido, Ornelas & Garcia, 2002).**

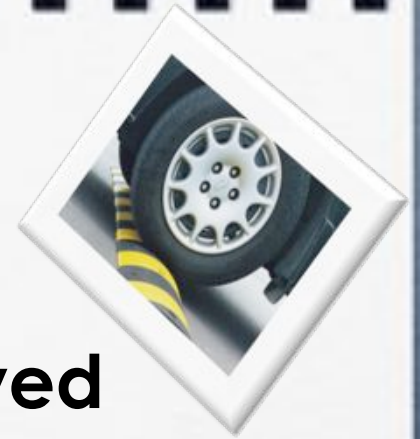


# Kid Watch Active Volunteers



(USC Kid Watch Active Volunteers, 2009)

# Community Comments



- ☐ **Speed bumps on 20th St. and Paved Alleys**
- ☐ **More police presence in the neighborhood (MLK Park)**
- ☐ **Sidewalk repair - 1932 Olive Ave., 19th St., 20th St.**
- ☐ **Community Garden**



# Conclusion

- ❑The MLK community believes that gang violence is decreasing.**
- ❑Implementing an employment program can further improve community safety.**

# Conclusion

- ❑ **The MLK Community is concerned about child safety.**
- ❑ **Implementing a program to provide a safe passage as children walk to and from school and parks will improve child safety.**



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# Acknowledgements



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